We are thankful that Hurricane Jeanne spared South Florida, and our prayers go to all those across the state that suffered losses from this terrible hurricane season. We were open for our last plant sale, but understandably, our customers stayed home anticipating the wind and rains of Jeanne. With so many wonderful plants now in our inventory, we have decided to reschedule our event.

Our native plant sales are famous and fun. We have a great selection of South Florida plants with knowledgeable sales people to help you choose the best ones for your yard. Come early for the best selection, stay late to enjoy the company. The gate opens both days at 9 am. Saturday we close at 5 pm, Sunday at 3 pm. And there’s a bonus event - our plant sale will be held the same weekend as the South Miami Art Festival (taking place on Sunset Drive between US-1 and Red Road).

Tropical Audubon Society presents

~A BIRDING SAMPLER~

SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA AND NORTHERN MEXICO BIRDS AND CULTURE

An Eight-Day Birding Tour of Some of the “Hottest Spots” around Tucson, the Upper San Pedro River Watershed, the Mata Ortiz/Casas Grandes Region, and the Northern Sierra Madres!

March 5-12, 2005

Join us for this birding tour of SE Arizona and Mexican “specialties” combined with the natural history and culture of the these local areas. We’ll spend three days birding in several habitats near Tucson, from low desert to conifer forest. The remaining days we devote to birding at riparian areas in the states of Sonora and Chihuahua. We spend two nights in the famous pottery village of Mata Ortiz and tour the prehistoric ruins nearby. A highlight of the trip is visiting the old growth forest in the Sierra Madre Mountains to spot Thick-billed Parrots.

Possible sightings include: Thick-billed Parrots, Whiskered Screech Owl, Pygmy Owl, Black-throated Sparrow, Gambel’s Quail, Spotted Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Arizona and Acorn Woodpecker, Hutton’s Vireo, Warblers (Black-throated Gray, Virginia’s, Grace’s), Painted Redstart, Greater Peewee, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Olive Warbler, Yellow-eyed Junco, Hermit Thrush, Band-tailed Pigeon, Zone-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Tropical Kingbird, Green Heron, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Black Hawk, Streak-backed Oriole, and Lucy’s Warbler.

The price of this tour is $1799 and includes all transportation from Tucson, lodging, meals, activities, entrance fees, and expert naturalist guides. The single supplement is $200. $150 of the tour price is a tax-deductible donation to Tropical Audubon Society. Group size is limited to 15. A deposit of $300 per person is required to reserve a spot on the trip. For more information and to register, please contact Rochelle Gerratt at 520-696-2002, info@naturetreks.net, or visit www.naturetreks.net.
Now at the halfway point of our trip, we traveled northward again to the Olympic Peninsula. Our two days in Olympic National Park provided additional opportunities to explore the Pacific coast, as well as the lower 48's only temperate rain forest. We timed our visit perfectly to one of the park's famous tide pool areas, allowing us to examine a vast array of sea stars, anemones, barnacles and other colorful marine creatures. Coastal birds seen while here included Bald Eagle, Pelagic Cormorant, Rhinoceros Auklet, Pigeon Guillemot, Glaucous-winged Gull, Northwestern Crow, and Band-tailed Pigeon. A pair of Red-breasted Sapsuckers were seen feeding right in our campground. This would be the last target bird I would find on this journey.

The first time I visited Mount Rainier National Park, rain clouds obscured the view of the mountain for our entire visit. That would not be the case on this visit, as we had almost continuous views of the Spectacular Peak. A several-hour hike on the mostly snow-covered Skyline Trail produced, in addition to the magnificent scenery and close-up views of Hoary Marmots, sightings of Gray-crowned Rosy Finch and American Pipit, as well as Hermit Thrush and Townsend's Solitaire. A shorter hike to Snow Lake provided opportunities to photograph a Blue Grouse hen and her chicks; a Hermit Warbler was also spotted nearby. The call of "quick, three beers" gave away the presence of Olive-sided Flycatchers. Back at our campground, Varied Thrush and Chestnut-backed Chickadee were among the highlights.

We completed our tour of Washington's national parks with a drive through North Cascades National Park. At a bridge crossing the Skagit River, a Barrow's Goldeneye was spotted among a group of Canada Geese. Varied Thrush hopped ahead of us as we hiked to beautiful Rainy Lake. Northern Pigmy Owl, a target bird that reportedly nests near the trailhead, would not respond to their taped calls, and would have to wait for another trip. Before we left Washington, and headed east to Montana, we stopped for a few hours to tour the historic Grand Coulee Dam.

New bird sightings, as well as new mammal sightings continued when we reached Waterton/Glacier National Park. Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds were swarming the feeders at the restaurant in Apgar Village. At McDonald Falls, Harlequin Ducks were observed diving in the rapids, or loafing on rocks near shore. Mountain Goats and Columbian Ground Squirrels were everywhere in the alpine area around Logan Pass. The drive on the Going-to-the-Sun Road was no less spectacular than on any of my previous visits to this beautiful park. This visit would also include a day spent touring the Canadian side of the park.

When we reached Yellowstone National Park, our focus shifted almost completely to birding and large mammal watching. Pronghorn, Elk, Mule Deer, Bison, and Coyote were all conspicuous during our three days of camping in the park. At adjacent Grand Teton National Park, in addition to the aforementioned Black Bear experience, three female moose were found, two by slogging through the marshes of Willow Flats, and another while driving to the top of Signal Mountain. We didn't restrict our mammal sightings, though, entirely to the large ones. On the drive back to our campsite from Old Faithful, a North American Deer Mouse, which apparently had made itself at home in the engine area of our van, was discovered as it was scurrying back and forth on the hood of the van!

A few new birds were ticked off during our stay in the area, among them a pair of Trumpeter Swan in Yellowstone (on, appropriately, Swan Lake!) and Williamson's Sapsucker in Grand Teton. Thermal features were visited in every corner of Yellowstone, including Old Faithful, Mammoth Springs, Norris Basin, and the Hayden Valley/Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone area. We exited the park via the Lamar Valley, in the northeast corner, striking out on a hoped-for sighting of wolves reintroduced into the area, then climbed up and over Beartooth Pass. Unfortunately, fog and occasionally heavy rain obscured the views on this spectacular mountain road. Our next destination and the last national park we would visit in the west Theodore Roosevelt National Park, in North Dakota.

We spent consecutive nights (Continued on page 6)
A Natural Wonder Inspires Literature

W. Hodding Carter, freelance journalist, is passionate about the Everglades. In his detailed history, Stolen Water: Saving the Everglades from its Friends, Foes, and Florida (Atria), Carter brings the alluring wilderness to life through a powerful personal account of his trip through the swamp. He presents both sides of every argument, intent on tracing what progress, if any, has been made to preserve the River of Grass.

Tom Regan defends animal rights activists in his new book Empty Cages: Facing the Challenge of Animal Rights (Rowman & Littlefield). The author of more than 20 books, Regan explains what animal rights are, why animals have them, and how major animal user industries delude the public about their mistreatment.

All Miami Book Fair International events take place at the Wolfson Campus and the surrounding downtown streets. For more information, contact the Miami Book Fair International office at (305) 237-3258 or visit www.miamibookfair.com

ACTION ALERT!

Help is needed now to encourage President Bush to support and fund Everglades Restoration! Visit the TAS website for more information and to take action: www.tropicalaudubon.org

The Everglades have been called a jewel of the U.S. National Park system and a global treasure. It has been four years since the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) was approved by the Congress and signed into law. And we haven’t stopped working on science and planning. This year, we are entering a new phase in CERP - construction of major ecosystem restoration component projects. The two projects slated for Congressional authorization this year are the Indian River Lagoon - South project and the Picayune Strand project. Both projects will significantly restore large areas within the Everglades and protect critically important wetlands habitat for birds. Both have been included in the Senate committee passed version of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), a biennial bill that authorizes all Army Corps projects.

We are in the home stretch for getting the projects authorized before Congress adjourns for the year. However, the outlooks for WRDA are less than rosy due to the large number of Senators with potential amendments. For this reason, Audubon and a group of allied environmental organizations has written to the President requesting that he help authorize the CERP projects on any bills moving through Congress. It is important to get the authorizations this year so that we can move forward with construction as quickly as possible. We need your help! Visit the TAS website to instantly send a letter to President George Bush urging him to help get the Everglades projects authorized before the 109th Congress adjourns!
Give the Gift of TAS

It's that time of year again. What do you get that person that has everything? How 'bout a gift membership to the Tropical Audubon Society. Here's a quick list of the reasons why every membership with TAS counts:

1. Elected officials listen to membership organizations because they represent groups of voters. Your name on our rosters makes our voice stronger.
2. Membership dues help maintain our important operations (staff, Doc Thomas House and Botanical Garden, full schedule of excellent activities, 6 Bulletins/year, informative website and more).
3. Our mailings will keep you in the loop and you can become more active as desired.
4. Membership provides you with the opportunity to support a cause which promotes the conservation ideals in which you believe.

Your recipient will receive a card acknowledging your gift, and you will as well. Just cut out the form below and mail it to our offices at 5530 Sunset Dr, Miami, Fl, 33143.

TAS Workdays

Want to learn about native plants, help Tropical maintain our native landscape at the Doc Thomas House and get your hands dirty? We need you! Show up anytime between 8:30-noon and you will find a host of hard workers. This is a great opportunity for students to earn community service hours. Workdays will be held Nov 13 and Dec 11.

TAS General Meetings

General Meetings are held the 2nd Wed. of every month. Members and non-members alike are welcome to join us at the Doc Thomas House (5530 Sunset Dr., Miami) for our monthly meetings. The doors open at 7:30pm and the presentations begin at 8pm. Below is the schedule for November - December. If you would like to suggest an idea for a future presentation, please call 305-667-7337.

Wed, Nov. 10: Wildlife of the Sonoran Desert Naturalist Dick Cunningham will present a slide show with emphasis on the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Southern Arizona. The program will detail the birds, butterflies and vegetation of this unique region.

The general meeting for December is replaced by the Christmas Bird Counts, check the calendar for details.

Doing your Holiday shopping online? Use the Amazon.com link on the www.tropicalaudubon.org website to shop for books, electronics, toys, apparel, and more! Every purchase you make using our link generates a contribution to TAS. That's like buying two gifts without spending any extra money!!!

Florida Native Plant Society Meeting Announcement

The Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society meets Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Fairchild Tropical Garden. Skip Snow, Wildlife Biologist at Everglades National Park, will speak on "Disposable Pets, Unwanted Giants: Pythons in Everglades National Park". The program will be followed by a plant raffle, refreshments and socializing. The meeting is free and open to the public. There is a chapter workday in the native plantings at the Coe Visitors Center in Everglades National Park on Dec. 4. Call 305-255-6404 for more information or visit www.fnps.org/chapters/dade.

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Events

Call 305-667-1651 for information on these events.

Palm and Cycad Show and Sale
Nov. 6 & 7, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Presented by the South Florida Palm Society.

Ramble - A Garden Festival
Nov. 20 & 21, A festival of thousands of plants for sale, garden accessories, exhibits, shopping, food, music and activities for children and adults alike.

Holiday Music at Fairchild
Dec. 5, Reception at 6:00 p.m., Concert in the Garden House 7:00 p.m. Presented by Ocean Bank.
Once again, TAS staffer Cynthia Guerra and board members Shannon Mayorga and Captain Ed Davidson attended the successful 2004 Audubon Assembly. This year, the focus was on making progress in environmental advocacy. Audubon of Florida unveiled a new strategic plan intended to improve the effectiveness of the state organization and chapters in meeting today’s environmental challenges. National Audubon debuted their vision for chapter-based initiatives, a new plan for better coordination between chapters, national and state Audubon offices. The highlight of the event, by far, was an inspiring presentation detailing all of the amazing work chapters are doing across the state in the arenas of direct advocacy, education, environmental preservation and outreach. As Eric Draper (Policy Director for AoF) put it, the presentation should have been entitled “Chapters, WOW!” It was very exciting to have the opportunity to present to David Anderson (the new CEO of AoF) all of the wonderful work the chapters are engaged in.

Cynthia Guerra accepts the Audubon of Florida Best Chapter Education Program Award from David Anderson and Eric Draper. TAS received the award for their successful fishing line recycling program.
BRIGHT IDEAS: Adding light to the dark season is part of every religious tradition, but there’s no need to squander power to celebrate right. Use energy-efficient lights and put them on a timer. Look for fewer bulbs on longer lengths, or try LED lights, which use up to 90 percent less energy than traditional seven-watters.

TREE-FARM FACTS: The Christmas-tree question isn’t as clear-cut (if you’ll pardon the expression) as it appears. Ninety-eight percent of tannenbaums were grown on farms, not in forests, so it’s not as if you’re stringing lights as clear-cut (if you’ll pardon the expression) as it appears. Ninety-eight percent of tannenbaums were grown on farms, not in forests, so it’s not as if you’re stringing lights on Luna. And the million acres devoted to tree plantations in the United States do offer some breeding and foraging habitat for birds and other animals. The big downside is the more than 40 different pesticides used in tree farming, including nasty ones like the herbicide atrazine, a hormone disrupter linked to prostate cancer, and the fumigant methyl bromide. The quest for a flawless fir or perfect pine has also led some growers to spray trees with chemical colorants, or even experiment with cloning. If you do choose a cut tree, don’t let it become one of the 10 million that get unceremoniously landfilled at the end of the year. If not covered with flocking, tinsel, or fire retardant, trees can be chipped for mulch or used whole to stabilize wetlands. Call (800) CLEANUP or visit www.earth911.org to find the tree-recycling program near you.

TREE-FREE: Plastic trees don’t have that piney-fresh smell, but if you use the same one each year, you’re only tapping our petroleum supply once, not burning up gas on every trip to the tree lot. (They’re pesticide-free, too.) For a natural look, try making your own tree of trimmed evergreens, a storm-felled branch, or a piece of driftwood. You could even hang ornaments on a potted plant.

Brian Rapoza’s Summer Birding Adventure

(Continued from page 2)

camping on the Little Missouri River, our first night in the south unit and the next night in the north unit. Feral horses greeted us when we arrived at Cottonwood Campground, in the south unit. Bison were quite common at this park, as were Black-tailed Prairie Dogs. We searched for beavers at a dam and lodge near our campground in the north unit, but found a pair of muskrats living there instead. The riparian habitat I explored contained a mix of western and eastern bird species, and included Western and Eastern Kingbird, Orchard and Bullock’s Orioles, Clay-colored, Field and Grasshopper Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting, Western Meadowlark, Least Flycatcher, Black and White Warbler and Red-eyed Vireo. Both Wild Turkey and Sharp-tailed Grouse were spotted in the grasslands of the north unit.

Continuing east, it took us several days to arrive at our seventeenth, and final National Park of the trip, Great Smoky Mountains. Along the way, we spent a couple of days exploring by foot and by canoe the Wisconsin Dells area. Though a few new species were added at each stop along the way, including Wood Duck, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Eastern Wood Pewee, it was becoming evident that the end of the breeding season and the beginning of fall migration was making the task increasingly difficult. At Great Smoky Mountains, a few warblers were still present, including Hooded, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Ovenbird. At Cades Cove, a traffic jam ahead of us was the result of a Black Bear being spotted feeding at the very top of a cherry tree. While here, we visited the restored churches, cabins and farmhouses of the mountain people who lived in the area prior to the park’s creation. We also visited a Cherokee Indian village, where we saw how the original inhabitants of the area once lived, and the tragic story of how they were driven from their homeland.

Our final destination before heading back to Florida was the Chattooga River, on the Georgia/South Carolina border, a wild and scenic river made famous in the motion picture Deliverance. We spent the day white-water rafting down the river, through heart-pumping rapids with names like Corkscrew, Jawbone, and Seven-Foot Falls. The trip began in sunshine, but ended in drenching rain, crashing thunder and too-close-for comfort lightning. It was an exciting and fitting end to our amazing journey. I’d like to thank the Morelands and all my traveling companions for tolerating my birding obsession, and making it truly a summer to remember.

Check out Brian’s latest local bird sightings on our website at www.tropicalaudubon.org
Mega-yacht Marina and Related Development
Coming Soon to Watson Island.

With dollar signs in their eyes, and an army of lobbyists in tow, the powers that be at the City of Miami are embarking on yet another assault on public lands and the sensitive natural resources of Biscayne Bay. This latest insult is occurring in the form of hotels, timeshares and a mega-yacht marina on Watson Island. The same Watson Island that could have been Miami’s Central Park: a spectacular wild place to sooth our weary urbanized souls; a place to connect with the Bay and her natural treasures; and a place to provide eco-tourism opportunities and a sustainable industry with the well-being of our environment as its core value. Instead (and not withstanding the Children’s Museum which seeks to accommodate other community needs) Watson Island is for sale to the highest bidders. And those bidders come well armed to persuade us that they have our best interest’s at heart.

The current proposal includes glossy brochures depicting canopy covered walkways and open spaces hosting community events that provide for public access—and I suppose it is still possible that this vision may come to pass. However, I am skeptical considering what has already transpired. In 1949, Watson Island was deeded to the City of Miami provided the City “not give or grant any license or permit to any private person, firm or corporation to construct...structures, buildings or other things on the...lands or any part thereof for any private use or purpose.” The deed further stated that it was the intention of this restriction that “the said lands shall be used solely for public purpose, including municipal purposes and not otherwise”. Well, these deed restrictions did not allow for the commercial development the City wanted, so the City asked the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida to lift the restrictions. In June of this year, the State granted the City’s request, and thusly, you and I and everyone else summarily lost our rights to access on Watson Island (well, everyone except those who will be able to afford the high rents, high dockage, or high price of ownership in the new development).

Insulted? You should be. This is not the first time the City and the State have conspired to strip us of access to public places. Public parkland at Bayfront Park was consumed to create Bayside Shopping Center. In exchange for this loss of public land, the City made commitments to acquire new bayfront parkland, namely the Barnacle addition in Coconut Grove. Lo and behold, instead of ensuring those lands were held in the public trust, the City allowed that land to be used for ANOTHER private development (the Cloisters). This was especially painful for me to witness—the tropical hardwood hammock that was destroyed to make way for million dollar bungalows had been there forever. A vestige of our natural history was wiped out to boost tax roles.

Interestingly, I read in the Herald that one of the City Commissioner’s was concerned about what kind of impact the construction was going to have on the birds at Parrot Jungle. That’s a nice sentiment, but boy is it misplaced. If they want to worry about impacts to natural resources, what about the 10+ acres of Bay bottom that are going to be dredged up to make way for the marina. This bay bottom supports acres of seagrass (including an endangered seagrass) and other biological communities that contain corals, sponges, invertebrates, fish, and the occasional endangered sea turtle and manatee.

Miami-Dade County DERM is currently reviewing the application for the marina, but under the political pressure of the City, this application does not appear to subject to the “avoidance and minimization” standards that are typically the mantra of the County’s environmental permitting process. In other words, if you own waterfront land and you want to build a dock for your boat, you have to avoid impacts to natural resources if at all possible, minimize impacts if they are unavoidable, and mitigate for impacts your dock has on resources that were impacted. In their application, the City has stated that there is only one economically viable configuration for their marina although they do not factually support this assertion at all. The City also claims that their configuration of choice is consistent with a voter referendum approving the development. I don’t think that the referendum contained conceptual drawings of all the possible marina configurations and I don’t think the electorate that approved the referendum was being asked to determine the environmental impacts of the project. So despite the existence of proposed alternatives that greatly reduce impacts to Bay resources, the City selected the most destructive configuration and they are not being charged in the County’s regulatory review process to change it.

Disgusted? Me too. The TAS and Sierra Club - Miami Group have had two meetings with DERM to express our concerns. We have left both meetings unsatisfied that the County is going to apply any more scrutiny to the project. I am sure this is a symptom of the larger political disease of high-powered interference in the regulatory process. By the time you read this, TAS may have attended the Commission meeting in late October/early November when the marina application is going to be considered. Hopefully we will have good news to report back in our next Bulletin. What can you do? Even if the item has already been heard by the time you read this, you should contact your Commissioner(s) at the County and at the City (if you are a City resident) and tell them that you expect them to protect your interests, tell them they should apply the highest levels of protection for our public spaces and our environment. And don’t forget to tell them that you are watching developments like this and that you vote!

- Cynthia Guerra
Sat., Nov. 6 — **Marco Island Birding**
Brian Rapoza will lead this all day carpool trip, which will include stops at Big Cypress Bend boardwalk, Eagle Lakes Park, and Tigertail Beach. Meet at 6:30am at the east gate (SW 55th Ave.) of the Doc Thomas property (5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami).
Shared gasoline costs, plus $4.00 per vehicle at Tigertail Beach. Bring lunch and wading footwear.

Sat., Nov. 13 — **Everglades National Park Birding**
John Boyd will lead this all day carpool trip. Meet in the parking lot of the Coe Visitor Center at Everglades National Park at 7:30am. There is an entrance fee to the park. Bring lunch.

Sat., Nov. 20 — **South Florida Exotics Trip**
Paul Bithorn will lead birders in search of parrots, bulbul, mynas, and other introduced species in this carpool trip. Meet at 1:00pm at the east parking lot of Baptist Hospital (8950 N Kendall Drive).

Sun., Nov. 21 — **Fakahatchee Strand State Reserve Nature Walk**
The Fakahatchee Strand is one of the most botanically rich areas in N. America. It contains the largest stand of Royal palms found in the state, as well as many unusual species of plants. Meet at the Preserve HQ. Wear sturdy shoes and long pants. Be prepared to wade. Bring water, a hat, bug spray, and snacks. A walking stick can be helpful. A change of clothes and shoes at the end is suggested. Rating: moderate to difficult; trail can be wet and muddy. Space is limited to 20. Reservations required by November 7. This unique trip is very popular, so call early. Leader: Rick Cohen. Fee: $13.00 members, $15.00 nonmembers.

Fri.-Sun., Dec. 3-5 — **Merritt Island Birding**
Ellen and Todd Snow will lead this two-night van trip to Brevard County. Costs ($195.00 per person double occupancy: $75.00 single supplement) include hotel and van/gas. Reservations are required by November 19. Call 954-926-0265 for more information.

Sat., Dec. 11 — **Everglades National Park Beginning Bird Walk**
Dick Cunningham will lead this trip. Meet in the parking lot of the Coe Visitor Center at Everglades National Park at 7:30am. There is an entrance fee to the park.
Fee: $5 for members / $7 for nonmembers. Bring lunch.

Sat-Sun, Dec. 11-12 — **Florida Bay Paddle Trip**
Shannon Mayorga leads this two-day kayak and overnight backcountry camping trip out of Flamingo in Everglades National Park. The trip includes backcountry camping at Shark Point in Florida Bay or nearby camping site pending availability. Following the Everglades's mangrove trimmed coastline, we will explore historic Florida Bay. See dolphins, shore birds, wading birds, sharks, and break bread with good people! Park entrance fee required. Participants must supply own kayak, camping gear, food, and water. For more information on kayak rental suggestions or more information, contact Shannon at 305-371-6399 or smayorga@audubon.org. In event of high winds, group camping at Flamingo is an option. RSVP required.

Sun., Dec 26 — **Kendall CBC Coordinated by Dick Cunningham.**
Reservations are required by all birding enthusiasts. This is an all day event. Volunteers are needed for all areas. Call 305-380-0814 for additional information.

Sat., Jan 8 — **South Dade Birding**
Raul Urgelles will lead this all day carpool trip, which may include stops at Lucky Hammock, Mary Krome Park, and Dump Marsh. Meet at 7:00am in the parking lot of the Burger King on US1 in Florida City (just after the end of the turnpike). This is an all day trip. Bring lunch.

Fri.-Mon., Jan. 14-17 — **North Florida Birding**
Brian Rapoza and Paul Bithorn will lead this four-day, three-night van trip to North Florida. Stops will include St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Alligator Point/Bald Point State Park, Appalachicola National Forest, Torreya and Florida Caverns State Park, Three Rivers State Recreation Area, Tall Timbers Research Station, Springhill STF, and Black Swamp. Costs ($225.00 per person double occupancy, $75.00 single supplement) include rental van, gasoline and hotel (three nights in Tallahassee). Reservations are required by December 31.

**Christmas Bird Counts**
Join the Bird Counts! Every year since 1900 teams of interested birders have joined together across the country to count the number of individual birds within each species occurring on the same date in the same place. This huge task is coordinated by the National Audubon Society. The consistency of the count creates a viable set of statistics that can be compared and used to measure the effects that changes in the environment have had on the bird population. These measurements act as important warnings of environmental deterioration that should be heeded. In addition to the serious consequences of the bird counts, they are a fun way to spend a day with fellow birding enthusiasts. This is an all day event. Volunteers are needed for all areas. Call 305-380-0814 for additional information.